

March 29, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1016 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As members of the infectious disease community, we are writing to express our support for prioritizing antimicrobial development funding as a part of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. In particular, we support additional funding for the BARDA Broad Spectrum Antimicrobial (BSA) Program within the total allotment.

The threat of multi-drug resistant bacteria has already been realized in many communities across the nation. In 2011, one bacteria, carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, spread through the National Institutes of Health's own Clinical Center, infecting 17 patients and killing 11 over a six month period of time. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently deemed such pathogens "nightmare bacteria" and reported their five-fold increase in over the last 10 years.

Unfortunately, our existing armamentarium is thin, and there are few new drugs likely to become available to address these bacterial threats in the near term. With concerns over the intentional use of a bacterial bioweapon still very real, we must continue to be prepared, and look to programs such as Project Bioshield, BARDA and efforts at the National Institutes of Health to spur new drug discovery and development to reverse this situation.

Several early but promising drug candidates are emerging that address both potential drug-resistant bioweapons as well as the pathogens currently threatening the public health. However, it is unclear whether BARDA will be sufficiently resourced to help support the clinical and manufacturing development needed to advance these products across the "valley of death" to reach communities in need.

Given our current fiscal situation, we recognize that even in the area of national security priorities cannot always be funded at levels equal to the magnitude of threats. However, developing new dual-use antimicrobials is an extremely efficient use of funds in that they can treat multiple pathogens and be used against bioterrorism threats as well as serious highly resistant infections. Each dollar spent contributes to protecting society from two major threats each of high concern.

Additional support for the BSA programs in FY 2014 would be invaluable to continue: advancing several new and existing classes of antimicrobials, including those that counter serious Gram-negative pathogens, which are recognized as increasingly dangerous and most in need of novel countermeasures; developing models for bioweapon pathogens acceptable for Food and Drug Administration approval under the 'animal rule;' and developing new broad-spectrum antivirals.

We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you on these and other vital national security issues. Should you have any questions, please contact Barrett Thornhill (bthornhill@antimicrobialalliance.com).

Sincerely,

Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance (*consisting of Achaogen, AstraZeneca, Astellas Pharma US, Forest Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline, and Merck & Co.*)

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Trust for America's Health

Antibacterial Working Group

Tetraphase

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

National Association of County and City Health Officials

Emergency Services Coalition for Medical Preparedness'